



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

might have been in part obviated by attention to topical headings. Since the thread of exposition is less clear than could have been wished one regrets that the index is scanty. Some subjects have been omitted which deserve treatment. Thus, hints on the choice of colors and forms of line in graphic work would help to obviate the familiar necessity of redrawing authors' charts and diagrams before they can be reproduced; and mention of some ordinary statisticians' devices for checking the accuracy of computations and transcriptions, distinguishing calculated results from data in records, etc., would serve a practical purpose. On the other hand, the author has well emphasized the menace of fallacious accuracy and of unintelligent resort to graphic statement. He has repeatedly laid emphasis on simple principles of the greatest importance, which are ordinarily all too little observed. He still further provides for the inculcating of these principles by an appendix of exercises based on the several chapters. Hence the first part of the book has merits which recommend it for the use of beginners in statistics. If only Mr. Bowley had developed this portion of his work to perhaps double its actual scale by clarifying and re-enforcing the exposition, it could be very warmly welcomed. As it is, it adds another to the respectable list of statistical books which are partly useful.

J. A. F.

Report of the Massachusetts Commission on Old Age Pensions, Annuities and Insurance. Boston: Wright & Potter, 1910. 8vo, pp. 409.

Massachusetts has long been a leader in labor legislation in this country and thus naturally is early in the field with an investigation of this subject now attracting so much attention. The Report includes a careful statistical study of the aged poor in Massachusetts, a descriptive account of existing systems of old-age pensions, insurance, and annuities in various countries, a study of the proposed plans for old-age pensions, a discussion of the general problem, an estimate of the cost of old-age pensions in Massachusetts, a study of the question of municipal pensions, and the final conclusions and recommendations.

The final recommendations of the commission, signed by all the members, though two dissent from particular features, are against the establishment by the state of any general system of old-age pensions. The first reason for this conclusion is the belief that if such a system is ever adopted in this country it will have to come through the federal government rather than through state legislation. Other special considerations leading to this conclusion were: a desire to test more thoroughly the experiment for voluntary insurance under public administration provided for by the state law of 1907; a belief that the problems of sickness and accident insurance should be thoroughly dealt with first; and the absence of any appreciable demand for old-age pensions as well as of any alarming amount of old-age destitution. (Investigation showed the number of paupers of all ages per 1,000 of the population is only 8.5 in Massachusetts as compared with 24.2 in the United Kingdom, while the number of paupers 65 years of age and over per 1,000 of population of the same age is only 31.7 in Massachusetts against 172 in the United Kingdom.) Finally,

the commission expressed the belief that the existing agencies were abundant and adequate. In line with this belief the commission made certain positive recommendations such as the teaching of thrift, calling attention to the state savings-bank insurance, showing corporations what they could do voluntarily, and suggesting legislation desirable to facilitate such voluntary action by both corporations and fraternal societies. The commission further recommended the enactment of laws for the establishment on the contributory principle of retirement systems for public employees, state, county, and local, the fundamental consideration being one of economy and efficiency. In conclusion, the establishment of a permanent unpaid commission on old-age pensions and insurance was proposed, to continue the study of the subject—and make further recommendations so as to keep up to date in a problem which it feels is continually growing.

India and the Tariff Problem. By H. B. LEES SMITH. London: Constable & Co., Ltd., 1909. Demy 8vo, pp. vii+120. 3s. 6d. net.

"Public opinion in India is overwhelmingly protectionist," says the author. "If she were granted her fiscal freedom there is no doubt that she would use it to erect a high tariff which from the nature of her trade would be directed chiefly against British goods. Among the educated and commercial classes free trade is regarded as a policy forced upon India against her best interests by Great Britain." The latest expression of this is the Swadeshi movement, which seeks to secure by the willing action of patriotic purchasers the exclusion of foreign goods. "The fact that Indians of all shades of thought are unanimous in accepting this doctrine indicates the strength of the protectionist sentiment." This sentiment, it is explained, is a part of the growing spirit of nationality among the people of India and of a belief that the necessary introduction of western ways and ideas cannot come so long as the country is so completely given over to agriculture. Furthermore, diversification is the only permanent solution of the problem of recurring famines. Having explained the causes for the movement, the author turns to a more detailed study of the resources and manufactures of India and the commodities entering into her foreign commerce, and seeks to explain just how protection and a preferential tariff would work. This study shows that tobacco and iron and steel are the only industries for which protection appears justifiable, and, considering the native inertia and lack of enterprise which might prove so injurious under protection as well as the usual abuses accompanying the system, it is concluded that "the tangible benefits of protection reduce themselves on examination to such small proportions that they do not justify running the serious risks that the policy entails. An examination of the possibilities of a preferential tariff leads to the conclusion that the exports and imports are of such a character as to leave India with "equally little either to lose or gain," but for Great Britain this would prove a "staggering blow" as she would be confronted with a protective tariff in the only great free market which she now enjoys. The book presents an admirable, temperate, thoughtful, and succinct discussion of this rapidly rising issue.